

CPYRGHT

THE CHAIRMAN of the Senate Preparedness subcommittee predicted yesterday that the United States would have to stay in Vietnam for 15 years or more after the fighting ends in order to preserve the peace.

In a statement to constituents: Sen. John Stennis (D-Miss.) called for an alliance of Western and Asian nations to contain the future spread of communism in Asia. He said the United States cannot continue to protect the world against Communist aggression and expansion indefinitely.

An Administration spokesman meanwhile, said that the U.S. position in Vietnam now appears secure. While North Vietnam refuses to negotiate, U.S. forces are not being threatened with expulsion and their duty now is to root out as many guerrillas as possible, he said. The main Vietcong force amounts to about 75,000 he said.